JUL 15 2016 William C. Dresser, 104375 Law Offices of William C. Dresser 2 4 North Second Street, Suite 1230 San Jose, California 95113 Tel: 408/279-7529 3 Fax: 408/298-3306 OF THE COUR 4 Attorneys for Qui Tam Relator and Plaintiff 5 Gregor Lesnik 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 8 SAN JOSE DIVISION 9 United States of America, ex rel. Gregor 10 No: C16-1120 Lesnik, 11 Plaintiff. FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR 12 DAMAGES AND OTHER RELIEF UNDER THE FALSE CLAIMS ACT VS. 13 Eisenmann SE, Eisenmann Anlagenbau GmbH & Co. KG, Eisenmann Anlagenbau 14 Filed Under Seal Verwaltung GmbH, Eisenmann Corporation, 15 ISM Vuzem d.o.o., ISM Vuzem USA, Inc., Hon. Lucy H. Koh Vuzem USA, Inc., Robert Vuzem, Ivan Vuzem, Tesla Motors, Inc., Gregurec Ltd, Jury trial demanded 16 Daimler AG, Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc., Bayerische Motoren 17 Werke, CiTic Dicastal Co., Ltd., Volkswagen and Does 1 through 50. 18 19 Defendants. 20 COMES NOW Plaintiff Gregor Lesnik on behalf of the United States of America 21 and alleges against Defendants, and each of them, as follows: 22 I. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS 23 A. General Fraudulent Scheme 24 1. This is an action to recover damages and civil penalties on behalf of the United 25 States of America for false and/or fraudulent statements, records, and claims made or 26 caused to be made by Defendants, as well as their affiliates, departments, subsidiaries, 27

US ex rel Lesnik v Eisenmann, et al; US Dist Ct., ND Cal. no. C16-1120 LCK First Amended Complaint

agents, employees, and co-conspirators, including in not paying the United States of

- 2. Defendants and each of them made and used, or knowingly ratified and assisted this making and using, false records and statements to avoid obligations to pay money to the United States, including but not limited to, delivering false and fraudulent documents to the United States to secure illegal visas for their direct and indirect employees to come to the United States; sending alien employees to work in the United States on B-1 visas when such employees did not in fact qualify for B-1 visas, obtaining B-1 visas instead of the more restrictively issued H-B1 visas and L-1B visas to avoid paying the higher fees required to obtain H-1B and L-1B visas; employing aliens in full time jobs at client sites in the United States on B-1 visas and not paying to the United States Social Security and Medicare taxes; not obtaining for employees social security numbers thus avoiding Social Security and Medicare taxes; failing to document employees working in the United States; failing to identify cash payments and thus avoiding social security and Medicare taxes; and falsely attesting that employees were authorized to work in the United States.
- 3. Plaintiff Gregor Lesnik is a former employee of ISM Vuzem d.o.o. who pursuant to the provisions of California Labor Code section 2750.5 was also an employee of each of the other named entity defendants. Plaintiff Gregor Lesnik worked at the Tesla plant in Fremont California, and had been contemplated by defendants to be assigned to work at other locations in Michigan and South Carolina before May 16, 2015 when he was injured. Plaintiff Gregor Lesnik was given a B-1 visa based on representations by Robert Keller of Eisenmann Corporation, on behalf of each of the defendants, which was made to obtain from the United States a B-1 visa to obtain entry to work in the United States, that Gregor Lesnik would work as a supervisor of electrical and mechanical installation
  - 4. The November 5, 2014 dated letter by Robert Keller of Eisenmann Corporation

- 5. ISM Vuzem d.o.o. by as yet unknown management personnel working out of offices in Zavrc, Slovenia, on its own behalf and on behalf of all named defendants made in November of 2014 further written representations to the United States that Gregor Lesnik would be a supervisor of electrical and mechanical installation at a BMW project in South Carolina working for Defendant Gregurec Ltd. Gregor Lesnik in fact was not hired to be a supervisor, did not work as a supervisor, and did not work for Gregure Ltd.
- 6. Defendants further represented that Gregor Lesnik would work in South Carolina, being the address of ISM Vuzem USA, Inc. Gregor Lesnik in fact was assigned to work in Fremont, California. He did not work on the project, or at the time, or under the company, or at the residence location, stated in the defendants' written representations to the United States.
- 7. Plaintiff has intimate knowledge of the above details and the documents given to him. Further, based on his work in Fremont, California he became aware that Eisenmann Corporation and subcontractors including ISM Vuzem d.o.o. made the same false written representations to the United States on behalf of every one of more than 200 individuals who were similarly situated to Gregor Lesnik in being hired to work for subcontractors, including more than 150 to work under Vuzem entities as subcontractor,

for work at the Tesla site in Fremont, California. This also included individuals to work under Gregurec, Ltd., an English business entity, Slovenian based companies LB metal d.o.o., aka Mos LB Metal d.o.o. and D2N Tehnologije d.o.o. aka D2N d.o.o., and German based entity Durr AG. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that this also includes individuals to work under Primiko, d.o.o., a Croatia based entity. All other than a handful of actual supervisors did not qualify for B-1 visas, even though the defendants represented to the United States that literally hundreds of workers were all supervisors.

- 8. Defendants' knowing submission of false and fraudulent claims for payment constitutes a violation of the FCA, 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729 et seq.
- 9. The practices of the Defendants as set forth herein of employing illegally documented aliens to work on clients sites under improper visas in contravention of federal law also is costing American citizens jobs.
  - 10. Defendants are carrying this illegal conduct to increase their profits.
- 11. Defendants by this scheme knowingly concealed, avoided or decreased their obligations to pay or transmit money or property to the Government, thus causing the United States to sustain a direct loss of funds and damage to its interests.
- 12. Defendants have not completely ceased their misconduct. To the extent any such misconduct continues, Relator intends that this Complaint address and remedy it.

#### B. The False Claims Act

13. Defendants' conduct alleged in this Complaint violates the federal False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729 et seq. The federal False Claims Act was originally enacted during the Civil War. Congress substantially amended the Act in 1986 to enhance the ability of the United States Government to recover losses sustained due to fraud against it. Congress amended the Act after it found that fraud in federal programs was pervasive and that the Act, which Congress characterized as the primary tool for combating government fraud, was in need of modernization. Congress intended the

amendments to create incentives for individuals with knowledge of fraud against the Government to disclose the information without fear of reprisals or Government inaction and to encourage the private bar to commit legal resources to prosecuting fraud on the Government's behalf.

- 14. The FCA establishes liability to the United States for "any person," whether an individual or an entity, who "knowingly presents, or causes to be presented, a false or fraudulent claim for payment or approval," or "knowingly makes, uses, or causes to be made or used, a false record or statement material to a false or fraudulent claim." Id. § 3729(a)(1)(A)-(B). "Knowingly" is defined to include actual knowledge, reckless disregard, and deliberate indifference. Id. § 3729(b)(1). No proof of specific intent to defraud is required. Id. Any person who violates the FCA is liable for a civil penalty of up to \$11,000 for each violation, plus three times the amount of the damages the United States sustains. Id. § 3729(a)(1).
- 15. In May 2009, Congress amended and renumbered the False Claims Act pursuant to Public Law 111-21, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009 ("FERA"). Section 3279(a)(1)(B) was formerly section 3729(a)(2) and applies to Defendants' conduct for the entire time period alleged in the Complaint by virtue of Section 4(f) of FERA. Section 3279(a)(1)(A) (formerly section 3729(a)(1)) of the FCA prior to FERA, and as amended in 1986, applies to conduct on or after May 20, 2009.
- 16. Section 3729(a)(1) of the pre-FERA FCA provides that any person who "knowingly presents, or causes to be presented, to an officer or employee of the United States Government or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States a false or fraudulent claim for payment or approval" is liable for "a civil penalty of "not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$10,000, . . plus 3 times the amount of damages which the Government sustains because of the act of that person."
- 17. The FCA allows any person having information about an FCA violation to bring an action on behalf of the United States and to share in any recovery. The FCA

also awards reasonable attorneys' fees and costs to the prevailing qui tam plaintiff as a matter of right. Id. § 3730(d). The FCA requires the Complaint be filed under seal for a minimum of 60 days (without service on the defendant during that time) to allow the government time to conduct its own investigation and to determine whether to join the suit.

C. Jurisdiction

18. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction to entertain this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 28 U.S.C. § 1367, and 31 U.S.C. § 3732, the last of which confers jurisdiction on this Court for actions brought pursuant to 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729 and 3730. Under 31 U.S.C. § 3730(e), there has been no statutorily relevant public disclosure of the "allegations or transactions" in this complaint.

19. The Court may exercise personal jurisdiction over Defendants pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3732(a), which authorizes nationwide service of process, and because Defendants have minimum contacts with the United States. Moreover, Defendants can be found in, reside, and/or transact or have transacted business in this District.

## D. Venue

20. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and 1395(a), and 31 U.S.C. § 3732(a) because Defendants can be found in and/or transact or have transacted business in this District. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants regularly conducted substantial business, maintained employees, and/or made significant sales in this District. In addition, statutory violations, as alleged in this Complaint, occurred in this District.

# E. Parties

- 21. Plaintiff Gregor Lesnik is, and at all times mentioned herein has been, an individual residing in the Slovenia.
- 22. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that defendant ISM Vuzem USA, Inc. is a business entity holding itself out to be a South Carolina corporation

with its principal place of business at 1600 Azalea Hill Drive, Unit 304 Greenville, SC 29607. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that defendant ISM Vuzem USA Inc. was at all relevant times on or before June of 2015 a wholly owned domestic subsidiary of ISM Vuzem, d.o.o. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that ISM Vuzem USA Inc. was at various times during the actions alleged herein dissolved involuntarily for failure to comply with requirements for corporations under South Carolina law.

- 23. Defendant ISM Vuzem USA, Inc. was during the time period of March through May of 2015 an employer of Plaintiff Gregor Lesnik both because it had the right to control his work and related activities, because it provided some of the compensation for Gregor Lesnik, and because Gregor Lesnik was between March of 2015 and May 16, 2015 performing services for defendant which required a license under Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the California Business and Professions Code.
- 24. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that defendant Vuzem USA Inc. is a business entity of unknown type holding itself out to be a California corporation with its principal place of business at 965 West 11th St. #2, San Pedro, CA 90731. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that defendant Vuzem USA Inc. is and at all relevant times mentioned herein has held itself out to be a wholly owned domestic subsidiary of ISM Vuzem, d.o.o.
- 25. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant Vuzem USA, Inc. was set up to be the exclusive service and materials supplier in California for ISM Vuzem, d.oo., performing the following activities in connection with construction projects which ISM Vuzem, d.o.o. contracts to perform: HVAC mechanical, welding, pipe fitting, assembly, marketing, processing invoices, and receiving of all customer complaints and accident reports for California. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Vuzem USA, Inc. is or was the general manager in California of ISM

Vuzem d.o.o.

- 26. Defendant Vuzem USA, Inc. is an employer of Plaintiff Gregor Lesnik because Gregor Lesnik was between March of 2015 and May 16, 2015 performing services for defendant including on behalf of ISM Vuzem d.o.o. and ISM Vuzem USA, Inc. which required a license under Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code.
- 27. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that defendant ISM Vuzem d.o.o., aka ISM VUZEM inženiring, storitve, montaža d.o.o., is a Slovenian business entity with its principal place of business at Goricak 4, 2283 Zavrc, Slovenija.
- 28. Defendant ISM Vuzem d.o.o. was at all times mentioned herein a direct employer of Gregor Lesnik pursuant to a November 13, 2014 dated Pogodbo O Zaposlitvi (employment agreement). Defendant ISM Vuzem d.o.o. was also an employer of Plaintiff Gregor Lesnik both because it had the right to control his work and related activities and did control his work and related activities and because Gregor Lesnik was between March of 2015 and May 16, 2015 performing services for defendant which required a license under Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code.
- 29. Defendant Eisenmann Corporation also known as Eisenmann Corporation USA holds itself out to be a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 150 E Dartmoor Dr., Crystal Lake, IL 60014
- 30. Defendant Eisenmann Corporation had supervisors that came from time to time to take a look to see how the work performed by Gregor Lesnik and the other similarly situated alien "B-1" workers was progressing and to assess it. Further, Eisenmann Corporation through multiple employees and agents provided instructions to Gregor Lesnik.
- 31. Defendant Eisenmann Corporation by its authorized Purchasing Manager Robert Keller made the written representations in the letter dated November 5, 2014

- 32. Defendant Eisenmann Corporation is an employer of Plaintiff Gregor Lesnik because it had the right to control his work and related activities, because it gave some instructions to Gregor Lesnik in his work activities and reserved the right to give instructions, and because Gregor Lesnik was between March of 2015 and May 16, 2015 performing services for defendant which required a license under Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code.
- 33. Defendant Eisenmann SE is a German entity with its principal place of business at Tübinger Str. 81, 71032 Böblingen, Germany. Defendant Eisenmann SE represents that it is a holding company of the Eisenmann Group and that it holds one hundred percent of the shares of Eisenmann Anlagenbau GmbH & Co. KG.
- 34. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant Eisenmann SE acted through its subsidiary Eisenmann Corporation in the matters alleged herein.
- 35. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant Eisenmann SE is an employer of Gregor Lesnik because it acted through its owned subsidiaries Eisenmann Anlagenbau GmbH & Co. KG, Eisenmann Anlagenbau Verwaltung GmbH and Eisenmann Corporation to have the right to control his work and related activities and because Gregor Lesnik was between March of 2015 and May 16, 2015 performing services which required a license under Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code.
- 36. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that defendant Eisenmann Anlagenbau GmbH & Co. KG is a German entity in the form of a limited partnership. Among other things, GmbH or "Gesellschaft mit beschrankter Haftung" and KG or "Kommanditgesellschaft" means that it is a limited partnership with its sole general partner being a limited liability company.
  - 37. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant

Eisenmann Anlagenbau GmbH & Co. KG acted directly and also acted indirectly through its subsidiary Eisenmann Corporation in the maters alleged herein.

- 38. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant Eisenmann Anlagenbau GmbH & Co. KG is an employer of Gregor Lesnik because Gregor Lesnik was between March of 2015 and May 16, 2015 performing services for defendant which required a license under Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code.
- 39. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that defendant Eisenmann Anlagenbau Vertvaltuilg GmbH is a German entity which is the general partner of Defendant Eisenmann Anlagenbau GmbH & Co. KG and is identified under German law as having unlimited liability for the actionable wrongs and breaches of contract of the limited partnership Eisenmann Anlagenbau GmbH & Co. KG.
- 40. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant Eisenmann Anlagenbau Vertvaltuilg GmbH acted through its affiliated entity Eisenmann Corporation in the matters alleged herein.
- 41. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Robert Vuzem is a resident of Slovenia.
- 42. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Ivan Vuzem is a resident of Slovenia.
- 43. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Ivan Vuzem and Robert Vuzem are the owners of ISM Vuzem d.o.o. and in turn of each of ISM Vuzem USA, Inc. and of Vuzem USA, Inc. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that between Ivan Vuzem and Robert Vuzem and each of ISM Vuzem d.o.o., ISM Vuzem USA, Inc., and Vuzem USA, Inc. there is such a unity of interest and ownership between the entities and their equitable owners that the separate personalities of the entities and the owners do not in reality exist. Further, an inequitable result will be reached for the wrongful acts alleged herein if they are treated as those of the entities alone. Plaintiff is

informed and believes and thereon alleges that each of Ivan Vuzem, Robert Vuzem, ISM Vuzem d.o.o., ISM Vuzem USA, Inc. and Vuzem USA, Inc. have commingled funds and other assets, each of the entities has held itself out to be liable for the debts of the others, there is identical equitable ownership in all of the entities, the entities use the same offices and employees, and the individuals and entities each use each other as mere shells or conduits for the affairs of each other. Further, ISM Vuzem USA, Inc. has been inadequately capitalized, each entity has been without necessary insurance to cover liabilities of each, there has been a disregard of corporate formalities, there has been a lack of segregation of corporate records, there has been a lack of segregation of corporate contracts and agreements, and they have identical directors and officers.

Adherence to the fiction of the separate existence of Defendants ISM Vuzem d.o.o., ISM Vuzem USA, Inc., and Vuzem USA, Inc. as entities distinct from Defendants Robert Vuzem and Ivan Vuzem and other entities they control would permit an abuse of the corporate privilege, sanction fraud, and promote injustice.

- 44. Defendant Tesla Motors, Inc. is and at all times mentioned herein was a Delaware corporation.
- 45. Defendant Tesla Motors, Inc. is an employer of Plaintiff Gregor Lesnik both because it had the right to control his work and related activities and because Gregor Lesnik was between March of 2015 and May 16, 2015 performing services for defendant which was required to obtain a license required under Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code. Among other things, Tesla Senior EHS Engineer Bobby Gonzales provided instructions to Gregor Lesnik, Tesla prepared, and maintained, all job hazard forms for work at the Tesla site. Among other things, none of defendants ISM Vuzem, d.o.o., ISM Vuzem USA, Inc., Vuzem USA, Inc., Gregurec Ltd., Eisenmann SE, Eisenmann Corporation, Eisenmann Anlagenbau GmbH & Co. KG, Eisenmann Anlagenbau Verwaltung GmbH or Tesla Motors, Inc. held at any time between March of 2015 and May 16, 2015 a license as required pursuant to

- 46. Defendant Gregurec Ltd is an English business entity, with its principal place of business at 226 St. Leonards Road, Horsham, RH13 6AU.
- 47. Defendant Daimler AG is a German Aktiengesellschaft (joint-stock company) business entity, doing business as Mercedes-Benz, Mercedez-Benz USA, and Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc., with its corporate headquarters and principal place of business at Mercedesstr. 137, 70327 Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg, Germany.
- 48. Defendant Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc. is an Alabama corporation and affiliate of Daimler AG, of Stuttgart, Germany, with its principal office and place of business at 1 Mercedes Drive, Vance, Alabama 35490.
- 49. Defendants Daimler AG and Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc. did support and assist and continue to support and assist the hiring and employment by Eisenmann entities of Vuzem employees, and employees of other foreign business entities, under visas it knew were fraudulently obtained, for expanding its production facility in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
- 50. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants Daimler AG and Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc. did support and assist and continue to support and assist the hiring and employment by Eisenmann entities of Vuzem

employees, and employees of other foreign business entities, under visas that

Defendants Daimler AG and Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc. knew were

fraudulently obtained, at the new paint shop and body shop at 8501 Palmetto Commerce

Parkway, North Charleston, South Carolina.

- 51. Defendant Bayerische Motoren Werke is a German Aktiengesellschaft business entity, doing business as BMW, with its principal place of business with its principal place of business at Petuelring 130; Munich, Germany.
- 52. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant Bayerische Motoren Werke did support and assist and continue to support and assist the hiring and employment by Eisenmann entities of Vuzem employees, and employees of other foreign business entities, under visas it knew were fraudulently obtained, at the vehicle assembly facility of BMW in Greer and Spartanburg South Carolina.
- 53. Defendant CiTic Dicastal Co., Ltd. is a (mainland) Chinese business entity, doing business as CiTic Dicastal Wheel Manufacturing Co., Ltd. and CITIC Dicastal North America, Inc., with its principal place of business at No. 185, Longhai Road, Funing, Qinhuangdao, He Bei Province, China, and with its principal place of business in the United States at 1 Dicastal Drive Greenville, Michigan.
- 54. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant CiTic Dicastal Co., Ltd. did support and assist and continue to support and assist the hiring and employment by Eisenmann entities of Vuzem employees, and employees of other foreign business entities, under visas it knew were fraudulently obtained, at the vehicle wheel production facility at the site of the former United Solar Ovonic LLC (Uni-Solar) campus in Greenville, Michigan.
- 55. Defendant Volkswagen is a German Aktiengesellschaft business entity, doing business as Volkswagen of America, Inc., with its headquarters at Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft VHH, 2nd Floor, PO Box 1849, D-38436 Wolfsburg, Germany.
  - 56. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant

Volkswagen did support and assist and continue to support and assist the hiring and employment by Eisenmann entities of Vuzem employees, and employees of other foreign business entities, under visas it knew were fraudulently obtained, at the vehicle production facility in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

57. Relator does not presently know the complete involvement in the matters

- alleged herein and / or identities of the remaining Doe Defendants who have knowingly submitted or participated in the submission of false and fraudulent claims to the government. For example, given that the work by workers at job sites extended to Michigan, South Carolina and California that Plaintiff is directly aware of, and to Alabama, New York, Washington and Illinois and to other facilities in Michigan and South Carolina as Plaintiff has been advised of, and that the visa applications were stated by the defendants to be for work under different entities, such as Gregurec, Ltd., and that Relator does not know all of the companies hired by the Eisenmann entities, Relator potentially does not yet know all of the owners, operators, and persons responsible, or all of the potential holding companies and affiliated entities answerable for the alleged conduct and their involvement in the matters alleged herein. Further information on the details and extent of the fraud the Doe Defendants committed and of the Doe Defendants' involvement are contained within Defendants' records.
- 58. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and so alleges, that Defendants, and each of them, were at all times herein mentioned, and now are, the agents, servants, employees, and representatives of their co-defendants, were acting within the scope, purpose, and authority of such agency, service, employment, and representation, made such actions and withheld from actions with the permission, knowledge, and consent of their co-defendants, and acted each acted with actual knowledge, deliberate ignorance of the truth or falsity, or reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the information presented to the United States. Each defendant which is an affiliated instruction of the other defendants "orchestrated, either directly or indirectly" the false

claims submitted by affiliated institutions.

# F. Factual Background and Regulatory Framework

- 59. Section 1324 of Title 8 of the United States Code provides that it is unlawful for a person or other entity to hire, or to recruit or refer for a fee, for employment in the United States an alien knowing the alien is an unauthorized alien (as defined in subsection (h)(3) of section 1324) with respect to such employment, or to hire, or to recruit or refer for a fee, for employment in the United States an individual without complying with the requirements of truthfully attesting under penalty of perjury that the alien is authorized under visa provisions to work or to continue to employ the alien in the United States knowing the alien is (or has become) an unauthorized alien with respect to such employment. Further, the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) Pub.L. 99–603, 100 Stat. 3445, requires employers to attest to their employees' immigration status. Regulations issued pursuant to this act require "employers" including those hiring "subcontractors" to obtain visa documentation and to complete and verify under penalty of perjury on an I-9 form the completeness and accuracy of the workers immigration status.
- 60. The B-1 visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows a foreign national to temporarily enter the United States for business purposes. Business purposes entail activities such as: consulting with business associates; traveling for business conventions; negotiating a contract; participating in short term training; and certain other activities of a temporary nature incident to international trade or commerce. It does not include local employment or labor for hire. Pursuant to law and regulations, B-1 visa holders may not perform skilled or unskilled labor. B-1 visas are valid for ten years. The application fee for a B-1 visa is approximately \$500.
- 61. The Immigration and Nationality Act states that a B-1 visa holder may not come to the United States to perform skilled or unskilled labor. The controlling Code of Federal Regulation states that the term "business" as used by a B-1 visa holder does not

include local employment or labor for hire. The governing policies within the Department of State's Foreign Affairs Manual and the Department of Homeland Security's Inspector's Field Manual interpret permissible B-1 activities as an alien coming to the United State to engage in commercial transactions (e.g., buying or selling) that do not involve gainful employment in the United States; to negotiate contracts; to consult with business associates, including attending meetings of the Board of Directors of a U.S. corporation; to litigate; to participate in scientific, educational, professional, or business conventions, conferences or seminars; or to undertake independent research. The U.S. Department of State, Foreign Affairs Manual and Handbook, at section 402.2-5 states that aliens who desire to enter the United States for business and who are otherwise eligible for visa issuance may be classifiable as nonimmigrant B1 visitors provided they meet the criteria described in 9 FAM 402.2-5 (B) through (F). Engaging in business contemplated for B1 visa classification generally entails business activities other than the performance of skilled or unskilled labor. All controlling statutes and regulations state that the issuance of a B1 visa is not intended for the purpose of obtaining and engaging in employment while in the United States.

62. The principal place of business of Eisenmann Corporation is in the United States. Materials and supplies for installation on the project that Gregor Lesnik worked on in California and for the projects that he would have been assigned to work on in Michigan and in South Carolina came from the United States. The work done by Gregor Lesnik and by the similarly situated "B-1" workers was in the United States. The work done by Gregor Lesnik and by the similarly situated "B-1" workers did not require specialized knowledge essential to the Eisenmann entities' obligations. Remuneration was paid under the table and from United States sources. Gregor Lesnik and the similarly situated "B-1" workers performed building and construction work. Gregor Lesnik and the similarly situated "B-1" workers - other than a few individuals - were not supervisors.

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63. Defendants took, and knowingly assisted the taking, among other things, the following unlawful actions in furtherance of this unlawful scheme:

- a. defendants submitted "invitation letters" to U.S. Consular Officials that contained materially false representations regarding the true purpose of a B-1 visa holder's travel in order to deceive U.S. Consular Officials and/or Customs and Border Protection Officers and secure entry of the visa holder into the United States. These "invitation letters" stated that the purpose of travel was for a "supervisor" with "specialized experience" to provide services that could not be provided by United States citizens, when the true purpose was to engage in activities not authorized under a B-1 visa. The November 5, 2014 letter from Robert Keller submitted to U.S. Consular Officials in order to mislead the officials is one such example;
- b. defendants gave directions regarding the avoidance of certain terminology, the avoidance of contract terms, and the use of misleading job titles, in order to secure entry of the visa holder into the United States. Among other things, defendants directed foreign nationals to inform U.S. Consular Officials and/or Customs and Border Protection Officers that their destination in the United States was the same as that provided in an introduction letter; however, defendants knew that the foreign nationals had been hired to be assigned to other destinations in the United States. Among other things, defendants directed foreign nationals to inform U.S. Consular Officials and/or Customs and Border Protection Officers that they would work as supervisors even though the foreign nationals had been told after hiring and before entry to the United States that they would not work in the United States as supervisors. Defendants in so doing "caused" submission of false claims and false information by instructing employees how to falsify information;
- c. defendants stated in "invitation letters" different named entities so as to conceal the number of "supervisors" hired. The reference to "Gregurc Ltd" on the November 5, 2014 letter by Robert Keller to the United States Consulate is one example of this;

- d. defendants intentionally chose to not obtain licenses issued by the State of California or other states or local governments so as to conceal the fact that the workers were employed to provide construction services. Among other things, none of Eisenmann SE, Eisenmann Anlagenbau GmbH & Co. KG, Eisenmann Anlagenbau Verwaltung GmbH, Eisenmann Corporation, ISM Vuzem d.o.o., ISM Vuzem USA, Inc., or Vuzem USA, Inc. hold or held contractors licenses issued by the State of California, required for work at the Tesla plant in Fremont, California;
- e. defendants made false representations about license status and employees so as to conceal the fact that the workers were employed to provide construction services. For example, the California State Licensing Board did issue Contractor License # 566486 to "VUZEM USA COMPANY." Licensed principal "BRONCO TOMASOVIC" represented to the CSLB that this was a sole proprietorship. Licensed principal "Bronco Tomasovic" also represented that this company did not need workers compensation insurance because it had no employees. "Bronco Tomasovic" is believed to also be known as "BRANKO TOMAS." Branko Tomas is the agent for service of process of "ISM Vuzem USA, Inc." with an address of 1600 Azalea Hill Drive, Unit 304, Greenville, SC 29607. Branko Tomas is also the agent for service of process of "Vuzem USA, Inc." with an address of 965 West 11th St. #2, San Pedro, CA 90731. Significant is that this licensee is not a corporation, is not the same legal entity as any of the named defendants herein, and regardless of the correct name or legal designation it knowingly and intentionally stated that it had no employees;
- f. defendants provided assistance in locating and providing worker housing, work site trailers for management and supervisors, and contracts for construction, employment and hiring;
- g. defendants provided and supported security pass access to each work site using information from hundreds of workers visa and passport information, which, among other things, limited public viewing and access to each work site; and

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- h. defendants prepared, signed and submitted false Form I-9 for those "general contractor's employees", or "subcontractor's employees", or otherwise characterized site construction workers whose employment lasted more than three days. This includes the failure of defendants, and of their authorized agents, to list in their prepared, signed and submitted Form I-9s the fact of employment at many work sites of literally hundreds of workers who defendants knew could not all have legitimately issued B1 visas. This includes at the Tesla facility in Fremont, California, the Mercedes Benz plant in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, the BMW plant in South Carolina, and the Dicastale facility in Greenville, Michigan. This includes the failure to document verification of the identity and employment authorization of each such employee similarly situated to Gregor Lesnik, including proper Alien Registration Number(s). Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that some or all of the defendants herein failed for at least a great number of persons similarly situated to Gregor Lesnik to retain with Form I-9s the originals or copies of Acceptable Documents of all or many of such workers, thus making photocopies of Acceptable Documents unavailable for inspection by DHS or other federal government agency.
- 64. Defendants in furtherance of this scheme also wrote and revised contracts with each other, and with their clients, in order to conceal the fact that the defendants were providing B-1 visa holders to perform jobs that involved skilled or unskilled labor that were otherwise required to be performed by United States citizens or require legitimate H-1B visa holders. One example was the series of contracts for work at the Tesla plant in Fremont, California. These included:
- a. Eisenmann Corporation prepared on or about April 1, 2002 a version of its Eisenmann Subcontractor General Terms and Conditions which it represents applies to its relationship with ISM Vuzem USA, Inc., and with other subcontractors who provided services and materials at the Tesla site in Fremont, California;
  - b. On or about June 6, 2014 Tesla Motors, Inc., by Peter Carlson, and

- c. On or about June 9, 2014 a "Purchase Order" was submitted by ISM Vuzem USA, Inc. a United States entity to Eisenmann Corporation another United States entity;
- d. On or about July 24, 2014 a Purchase Order was agreed to between Eisenmann Anlagenbau GmbH & Co KG and Tesla Motors, Inc. for Body Paint Shop Phase 1;
- e. On or about July 25, 2014 a Statement of Work was executed by Deepak Ahuja, CFO on behalf of Tesla Motors, Inc., by Gabriele DiFuria, Sales Manager, and Bruno Casorati, Senior Vice President on behalf of Eisenmann Anlagenbau GmbH & Co KG and by Dr. Link (? Sp) Lebman, Chairman, on behalf of Eisenmann Corporation;
- f. On or about July 25, 2014 a Purchase Order was executed between Eisenmann Corporation and Tesla Motors, Inc.;
- g. On or about September 29, 2014 a Minutes of Meeting was prepared for an agreement between Tesla Motors, Inc., ISM Vuzem USA, and Eisenmann Corporation for Mechanical Installation. These minutes were initialed on each page by a representative of Subcontractor ISM Vuzem USA and by a representative of Eisenmann. This asserts an agreement reached for mechanical installation. The MOM identified

multiple other Contract Documents which were incorporated in to the MOM and each
Purchase Order. The MOM states it is for the intention of Eisenmann to engage
Subcontractor to provide labor, equipment, consumables and services for paint shop
projects (the "'Work") for Owner Tesla Motors, Inc. Robert Keller has identified it as
generally describing Eisenmann's intention to engage ISM Vuzem USA to provide labor
for the installation of a paint shop at the Tesla Motors, Inc. facility located in Fremont,
California. The identified attendees for the Minutes of Meeting were Klemen Vuzem for
Subcontractor ISM Vuzem USA, and Anton Borovac, Frank Ziegler, Matthias Heydlauff,
and Bernd Strumberger for Eisenmann, said minutes having been prepared by Frank
Ziegler of Eisenmann. The MOM was executed by Frank Ziegler and Robert Keller on
behalf of Eisenmann Corporation and by Branko Tomas as "Direktor" on behalf of
Subcontractor. Klemen Vuzem is the nephew of Robert Vuzem and was the on site
manager for ISM Vuzem d.o.o. at the Tesla site during construction activities by ISM
Vuzem d.o.o. at that site. Branko Tomas is the agent for service of process for both ISM
Vuzem USA, Inc. and Vuzem USA, Inc. and is the owner as sole proprietor doing
business as Vuzem USA Company which has held a license issued by the California
Contractors Licensing Board, a license which has a various times been suspended; and
h. Contract 04-2015, dated on or about January 3, 2015, was entered into
between ISM Vuzem d.o.o. and ISM Vuzem USA, Inc. for ISM Vuzem d.o.o. to provide
fully qualified engineers for installation of a paintshop at Tesla's Fremont plant.

- 65. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Eisenmann Corporation and the other Eisenmann entities have conducted the same visa application procedures for its work sites in the Greater Detroit area, for the Greenville, South Carolina area, for the Chatanooga, Tennessee area, and for the Mobile, Alabama area, as well as for other areas in Illinois, Washington and New York.
- 66. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each of the other defendants knew and participated in similar contracts and contractual relationships which

provided knowledge to each of the defendants of the illegal and impermissible visa application procedures followed by Eisenmann Corporation and the other Eisenmann entities.

67. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Eisenmann

Corporation has conducted the same visa application procedures through other entities which at the Tesla plant in Fremont included workers who Gregor Lesnik met from:

Durr AG of Germany with a US division address of 40600 Plymouth Road, Plymouth, MI 48170-4297;

LB metal d.o.o., aka Mos LB Metal d.o.o. of Slovenia;
D2N Tehnologije d.o.o. aka D2N d.o.o. of Slovenia, and
defendant Gregurec Ltd.

- 68. Defendant Gregurec Ltd is mentioned on the November 5, 2014 letter from Robert Keller to the Consulate General of the United States in connection with the B-1 visa application for Gregor Lesnik as the employer of Gregor Lesnik. Defendant Gregurec Ltd is mentioned on many other letters written between 2013 and 2016 by Robert Keller to the Consulate General of the United States in connection with the B-1 visa application for other applicants, each of which falsely stated that Gregurec Ltd would be the employer of all of these other applicants, and that all of the applicants would be supervisors.
- 69. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Eisenmann Corporation acted on behalf of all defendants to supply workers to work on projects in the United States for defendants BMW, Daimler AG, Mercedes-Benz, and Dicastale and other companies as well as for Tesla Motors, Inc. Other similarly situated Vuzem "B-1" visa workers who worked with Gregor Lesnik had told Gregor Lesnik that they worked at or been stated to next be assigned to work at those projects. Further, the November 5, 2014 letter from Robert Keller to the Consulate General of the United States represented that Gregor Lesnik would be working on an Eisenmann project for BMW in South

Carolina.

70. Plaintiff Gregor Lesnik was paid some money in cash. ISM Vuzem d.o.o. asserts it paid Gregor Lesnik \$505 US in March by ISM Vuzem d.o.o. supervisors and managers Primo Planovsek and Klemen Vuzem, and \$1,282 US in April by by ISM Vuzem d.o.o. supervisors and managers Primo Planovsek, Davorin Hull and Klemen Vuzem. The Vuzem entities withheld additional payment that was represented would be paid upon completion of work at the project but only upon return to Slovenia. Gregor Lesnik was not paid the balance of what was promised to him because defendants after "crediting" themselves for the "advance payments" would not pay him the balance on the basis that Gregor Lesnik was injured on the job.

- 71. The other similarly situated "B-1 visa" workers were also paid in part in cash in California when they worked at the Tesla plant in Fremont, California. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the similarly situated "B-1 visa" workers were also paid in part in cash in South Carolina, Michigan and Alabama.
- 72. The payments in cash were to conceal the true source of payments and the true amounts of payments to Gregor Lesnik and to the other "B-1" workers.
- 73. These and related actions were part of the scheme which violated the provisions of, among other things, Title 8 of the United States Code, section 1324a concerning the unlawful activities in hiring, recruiting, referral, and employment of aliens in the United States knowing the aliens are or have become unauthorized aliens with respect to such employment.
- 74. Subsection (f) of Subsection 1324a provides that any person or entity that engages in a "pattern or practice" of violations of subsection (a)(1)(A) or (a)(2) shall be fined not more than \$3,000 for each unauthorized alien with respect to whom such a violation occurs, imprisoned for not more than six months for the entire pattern or practice, or both.
  - 75. The actions by defendants evidence regular, repeated and intentional

activities.

- 76. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) added a new subsection (e) to Title 8 of the United States Code section 1324c which makes it an offense for any person, in connection with any matter within the jurisdiction of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, to knowingly and willfully fail to disclose, conceal or cover up the fact that such person, on behalf of any other person and for a fee or other remuneration, prepared or assisted in the preparation of a falsely made application for immigration benefits.
- 77. The actions of defendants, as referenced above, are actions by defendants to affirmatively conceal and cover up their involvement in preparing fraudulent immigration applications.
- 78. Title 8 of the United States Code, section 1324, subsection (a)(1)(A)(iv) makes it an offense for any person who encourages or induces an alien to come to, enter, or reside in the United States, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such coming to, entry, or residence is or will be in violation of law.
- 79. Each of the actions of the defendants, as referenced above, are actions that induced Gregor Lesnik and similarly situated "B-1 visa" workers to enter the United States to work pursuant to B-1 visas obtained by fraudulent immigration applications.
- 80. Title 8 of the United States Code, section1324, subsection (a)(1)(A)(v) expressly makes it an offense to engage in a conspiracy to commit or aid or abet the commission of the foregoing offenses.
- 81. Title 18 of the United States Code, section 1546, subsection (a) makes it a crime to give a false statement under oath in any document required by the immigration laws or regulations.
- 82. Each and every of the actions of the defendants stated above violated the provision of the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729(a)(1)(A) and (a)(1)(B), which prohibits not only submitting a claim and generating a false record, but also knowingly

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causing a prohibited submission or generation.

83. Each and every of the actions of the defendants stated above were material to the issuance of B1 visas, and of the acceptance of lesser visa application fees. because each of the actions, statements, and omissions caused by defendants had a natural tendency to influence, or be capable of influencing, immigration decisions.

# II. CAUSES OF ACTION

### **Count One**

# Federal False Claims Act 31 U.S.C. § 3729(a)(1)(A)-(B) (2009) against all named Defendants

- 84. Relator realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 83 of this Complaint.
- 85. This is a claim for treble damages and penalties under the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, et seg., as amended in 1986 and again in 2009.
- 86. The within False Claims Act action is brought within six years of a violation or within three years of the date by which the United States should have known about a violation and up to ten years after the violation.
- 87. Through the acts described above including as alleged in paragraphs 2 through 7 and 22 through 78 of this First Amended Complaint, for all conduct that occurred on or after May 20, 2009, Defendants and each of them, by and through their officers, agents, and employees, knowingly presented or caused to be presented, false or fraudulent claims to the United States Government for payment or approval and/or knowingly concealed, avoided or decreased its obligations to pay or transmit money or property to the Government. 31 U.S.C. § 3729(a)(1)(A) (2009).
- 88. Through the acts described above, Defendants knowingly made, used, or caused to be made or used, a false record or statement material to a false or fraudulent claim. 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729(a)(1)(B) (2009).
  - 89. Relator cannot now identify all of the false claims and statements under which

Defendants failed to make payments to the United States and/or knowingly concealed
avoided or decreased their obligations to pay or transmit money or property to the
Government. Relator has no control over such entities and no access to records they
oossess.

- 90. The United States Government, unaware of the falsity of the records, statements, and claims that Defendants made or caused to be made, has to date not received the payments due to it by defendants and for which it should have been paid but for Defendants' illegal conduct to knowingly conceal, avoid or decrease their obligations to pay or transmit money or property to the Government.
- 91. Defendants, and each of them, authorized and ratified all the violations of the False Claims Act committed by their various officers, agents, and employees.
- 92. Defendants and each of them knowingly presented, or caused to be presented, false or fraudulent claims for payment or approval to the United States, including the avoidance of payment of fee, costs and obligations to transmit money or property to the government.
- 93. Said claims and false information in avoidance of payments were presented with actual knowledge of their falsity, or with reckless disregard or deliberate ignorance of whether or not they were false.
- 94. Defendants have damaged, and continue to damage, the United States in a substantial amount to be determined at trial as a direct, legal and proximate result of the violations of the False Claims Act by defendants, and each of them.
- 95. By virtue of the false or fraudulent claims that Defendants made or caused to be made, the United States suffered damages and therefore is entitled to treble damages under the False Claims Act, to be determined at trial, plus civil penalties of not less than \$5,500 and up to \$11,000 for each violation.

### III. PRAYER AND CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE Relator Lesnik, on behalf of himself and the United States

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